Dear Js,

3/29/73

With the forecast for a weekend of rain, delayed leaving for Washington this a.m. to take her ladyship on a tour of the liberations efforts, prompting due expressions of astonishment that so much could be done by one so decrepit, etc., of the trees in blooa and others swelling, for the cutting of fresh flowers to brighten the evening rerurn. So, I didn't get to do all I'd wanted to do.

Lil's reading of the Post's headlines suggested that I'd do better to delay getting the second copy until I was in Washington. The play of the WG story was strengthened and I suppose the lead at least changed. I've clipped but not read. I'll compare both before sending. The new head was heavy on Mitchell.

That seemed to appeal to Ian's editors, for while I was there he got a wire asking for a Mitchell story. He felt that with this request they'd not take and use a separate one on Hunt the assassination-recommender, so he inserted a few grafs on that in the requested story. Later he had to send an add for the final edition on the Weicher press conference, which may diminish the space alloted. We'll have to wait and see.

Considering the scanty attention it got on tonight's TV newscasts, coverage of the joint Colson-Hollenhoff appearance at the Nat. Press Club was very heavy. There were two setups for fixed camera coverage and there were a number of roving photogs with soundless 16 mm cameras. Neither NBC nor CBS mentioned Clark's presence. NBC used no footage and while referring to Colson//~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in read copy. (Th had film and Washington must have expected it to be used because while I was there an editor was hollering into the phone for the Weicher footage. No reference to what Weicher said.

Taped a few excerpts from the question period at the Press Club and Ian went up to Weicher's press conference while I saw Clark. The second side is the tape of Weicher's conference. There is a reference to an unidentified man in the WH still was was in charge of all operations. Afterward Ian asked him who. Not for use, Haldeman. (NBC friend told me their reporter had been told the same thing three days ago, or Monday, the first working day after McCord started talking to the Committee.

Having seen and heard W. before and hearing Ian's account today, I find myself wondering if he is Mark Antony~~ing~~ Nixon with his repeated scoring defenses of GL personally. Weicher refers to his personal staff. This means those on his regular staff and one he borrowed from Taft. Interesting Taft should lend help for this project.

Another indication of political change (inside GOP) was reflected in a short conversation between Ian and Hugh Scott's press secretary. I see your man is changing his position, Ian said. No so, reply. He has always taken a hard line ("Hard line" direct quote!) Against crime, etc. Ian asked if Scott were not now a bit more against and the unsmiling flack said that was a fair representation. Then he found it expedient to leave to greet another.

A Creep press release was in Ian's ~~xxx~~ typewriter in the afternoon, when he returned. It was a fourliner for Mitchell. They all use the same semantics. Their denial is of no more than a connection with the breakin, not the rest. Colson got away with it, too. I don't know if anyone asked him how about more than the break-in because all the questions were not used. Ian's wasn't.

I am feeling strongly that others feel GL will be enmeshed in this as it unfolds.

Phoned Bob Woodward at the Post on the Hunt urging of Castro's assassination as the opener of the Bay of Pigs. You can't be serious, he said. I told him I had his words in his voice on tape, obtained by a friend from the show from which it was edited. In fact, I told him the whole story of the Hunt-Buckley relationship, pretending he didn't know.

About the assassination he asked if I were certain. I said that was the wrong question, that Hunt had continued in federal employ for about a decade, had been rehired by Nixon after a security check, that this recommendation had to be in the files, and he was still hired and trusted. Did he want the printed transcript, the Buckley version of the tape, the tape I made when broadcast, and the editing between the aired tape and the transcript made by a friend? I'd bring them up after lunch. I'm pretty busy, he said, and would I please call. I did. "Jees, I've got about 800 things to do", he complained. "I understand, Bob. When you get down to 500 why don't you give me a call?" I dropped them all off at NBC, which asked me to, after the evening show had to have closed. I'll not be surprised if someone above the editor takes the attitude, what can you expect of a nut, meaning Hunt only.